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CURRENT AND UPCOMING

EPA Meeting with Port of Hueneme (CA)

On Wednesday, March 20, Region IX and OAR will join OIR in a meeting with Port of Hueneme Commission President Jess Herrera and Kristin Decas, CEO to discuss the DERA Program. The Port officials will also provide updates on the Shoreside Power Program and discuss the Port's future efforts to reduce diesel emissions. The representatives have met in the past with EPA to discuss a number of projects under its Environmental Framework. This comprehensive effort focuses on climate change, marine resources, air quality, water quality, and sediments, among other areas. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

Mayors Water Council to Convene in Columbus, OH

The US Conference of Mayors' Mayors Water Council will meet March 28 -29 to discuss priority policy issues of concern to the communities they represent. Mayors Jill Techel (Napa, CA) and David J. Berger (Lima, OH) are Council Co-Chairs. The mayors invited Lee Forsgren, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water, Andrew Sawyers, Director, Office of Wastewater Management, and Regional Administrator Cathy Stepp to participate in a policy discussion with mayors and invitees from the Ohio EPA on implementation of the Integrated Planning and Permitting Program on March 29. ***Andrew Sawyers will participate in the discussion. Linda Holst, Deputy Director, Water Division, Region V, will also participate. Tiffani Kavelec, Chief, OEPA Division of Surface Water, will also join the panel.***

The invitation was extended in connection with the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (HR 7279) that was signed into law on January 14, 2019, and interest from mayors around the nation in how Regional EPA and delegated State water permitting programs will respond to the new law. The Council appreciates the continuing work with EPA on USCM policies addressing Integrated Planning and Permitting, Green Infrastructure promotion, and modified Financial Capability assessment. In the invitation letter, Co-Chairs Techel and Berger noted that USCM member mayors look forward to continuing this engagement so the spirit of flexibility that they believe motivated Congress to adopt HR 7279 by overwhelming bipartisan and bicameral support can be maintained. The convening will also focus on additional topics, including: "Defining Water and Sewer Affordability;" Renewable Energy and Water Infrastructure; Lead and Copper Rule-USEPA

and the Michigan Experience; Emerging Rules – review of PFAS, Perchlorate, and WOTUS. (Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)

WOTUS Briefing with NGA and Governors' Offices

On Thursday, March 21, EPA and the Army Corps will meet with the National Governors' Association and Governors' DC representatives to provide an overview and receive feedback on the WOTUS proposal. Ryan Fisher, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Lee Forsgren, Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, and Dr. Owen McDonough, Senior Science Advisor for the Office of Water will lead the discussion. (Contact: Becky Cook-Shyovitz)

Waters of the U.S. Engagement

EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers are continuing to engage with state, tribal, and local governments as well as other stakeholders on the proposed rule for the revised definition of Waters of the U.S. EPA and the Army have created targeted opportunities for state co-regulators engagements, including a February 26rd states meeting in Kansas City, Kansas, a March 11th states meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, a March 26th states meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and a states meeting April 3rd in Seattle, Washington. Other state and local engagements are described elsewhere. On December 11, 2018, EPA and the Department of the Army signed a proposed rule to clarify federal authority under the Clean Water Act, which was the second step in a two-part process to review and revise the definition of WOTUS consistent with the February 2017 Presidential Executive Order entitled "Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the Waters of the United States Rule." The proposed definition would replace the approach of the 2015 rule and pre-2015 regulations. The proposed rule was published February 14, 2019 and the comment period is open until April 15, 2019. (Contact: Becky Cook-Shyovitz)

International Municipal Lawyers Association Convening in Washington DC

IMLA, the Association of Local Government Attorneys, will convene March 29 – 30. The seminar attracts some 350 local government attorneys from around the country. The Association invited EPA's Office of Water to join a panel to discuss and provide updates on the new WOTUS Rule/Options, on either Friday or Saturday. (Contacts: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon and Andrew Hanson)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The **LGAC Spring meeting** will be held **May 2nd-3rd** at EPA's East Building 1153 Hearing room. A New Members Orientation session is planned for May 2nd for new and returning Members. The public meeting will feature Senior EPA officials and a panel of Assistant Administrators from the EPA Program offices. Also, there will be an Intergovernmental Forum with guest speakers of national intergovernmental organizations for a featured discussion on risk communication and local governments. (Contact: Fran Eargle)

LGAC 2019 Membership Solicitation -OCIR is working with the EPA Regions and Headquarters and intergovernmental organizations on teeing up nominations to the Local Government Advisory Committee which provides critical advice on the development and implementation of Agency programs at the local level. The notice went out in the Federal Register (See Federal Register Notice <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-21/html/2019-03000.htm> . The Committee currently is chartered for 30 members. We are looking to appoint or reappoint approximately **10-12 LGAC Members** in 2019. The request went out on March 5th to EPA Regional Administrators and Assistant Administrator's requesting their **top 2-3 nominees** for consideration in the selection process by **March 15th**. (Contact: Fran Eargle)

LGAC Water Workgroup will meet on **Monday, March 18th**, to on their Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) charge. The Workgroup will begin discussion on their charge questions. This is the first in a series of meetings that the Workgroup intends on **April 1st**, and **April 15th** in preparing their report to the LGAC on WOTUS. The Workgroup is also continuing to work on their draft letter of recommendation on harmful algal blooms. (Contact: Fran Eargle)

The **Revitalizing Communities Workgroup** held a teleconference on **Tuesday, March 5, 2019**, during which they were introduced to Britt Carter, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, and learned about her priorities. In addition, OP conducted a demonstration of the Adaptation Resource Center (ARC-X) and OLEM gave an update on the activities under the Superfund Taskforce and will be developing additional information on risk communication issues for further feedback from the Workgroup. (Contact: Cristina Mercurio)

RECAP

EPA Meets with Tucson, AZ Water Officials [Cancelled]

On Monday, March 11, EPA was scheduled to meet with Tucson Water Director, Tim Thomure, and Intergovernmental Affairs Manager Andrew Greenhill, to discuss the Agency's PFAS Action Plan and future consideration as it relates to actions taken in the City. PFCs have been detected in wells located in the northwest part of Tucson. These wells serve the non-potable reclaimed water system, wells down-gradient from Davis Monthan Air Force Base, and within the TARP facility. Tucson Water has deployed a range of strategies to ensure that this water is not delivered to customers. Due to flight cancellations, the Water representatives were unable to travel to Washington. OIR will work with the city to reschedule when the officials are next in Washington. (Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)

EPA Meets with Wilmington, NC Local Officials

On Monday, March 11, per a request to EPA from Congressman David Rouzer (NC-7), Mayor Bill Saffo and members of his City Council, met with headquarters and Region IV staff to seek an understanding of the EPA decision-making process related to enforceable drinking water standards for water PFOA/PFAS. County Chairmen Jonathan Barfield (New Hanover); George Brown (Pender); and Frank Williams (Brunswick) joined the meeting by telephone. The Mayor and other local officials from the region appreciate the continuing partnership between EPA, the State of North Carolina, and their areas on the broader issue of EPA's process for identifying Public Health Concern for Emerging Contaminants, and, specifically, efforts to address issues related to GenX and other emerging contaminants identified in the Cape Fear River that may pose human health risks. The extensive dialogue provided an opportunity for the local officials to update EPA on their continuing efforts to engage their citizens by keeping them as accurately informed and updated as possible. Leading the dialogue and response for EPA, OGWDW Acting Director Jennifer McLain also provided an overview of the PFAS Action Plan and provided copies to the local officials. Becky Allenbach, Region IV Chief, Grants and Drinking Water Protection Branch, joined Andrew Gillespie, Ph.D., Associate Director, ORD/National Exposure Research Laboratory, State of North Carolina DEQ Deputy Director Linda Culpepper, Deputy Director, and others from the State, and EPA, in the dialogue. The Wilmington area local officials appreciate continued work with the Federal/State/Local partnership as research studies continue to assess the extent of the presence of contaminants, as well as the potential health effects. They emphasized the critical nature of keeping residents assured and informed. Mayor Saffo, his Council, and the County officials look forward to continuing to work closely with the partnership. (Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)

EPA Meets with Nogales, AZ Local Officials

On Tuesday, March 12, Jane Nishida, Deputy Assistant Administrator, and Lisa Almodovar, Deputy Director, Office of Regional & Bilateral Affairs (OITA), along with Catherine Allen, chief, Sustainable Communities and Infrastructure Branch, joined OIR and Region IX's Doug Eberhardt, Manager, Infrastructure Section, and his colleagues in a meeting with Nogales local officials. The Nogales group was led by City Manager Frank Felix, and Deputy City Manager John Kissinger. The local officials discussed concerns with the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) and requirements for repairs to the International Outfall Interceptor pipeline (IOI). Extensive dialogue and discussion focused on the IBWC's attempts to require that Nogales agree to pay 22% of expenses going forward or lose \$21m federal fund dollars allocated by the IBWC for repairs on the IOI. According to the city, the IBWC is also asking that Nogales assume all future costs for IOI repairs and maintenance. The IBWC charges the City of Nogales a fixed 23% for treatment of sewage and operation and maintenance of the IOI. As a result, the City maintains that it is overcharged in relation to the volume of flows through the IOI and the amount of city wastewater treated at the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant. There are also concerns that the IOI is nearly at maximum capacity due to Mexico's usage exceeding its allotted capacity. The City is very concerned that the IOI will quickly run out of capacity due to the rapid population growth in Nogales, Sonora. The officials welcomed the updates from Doug Eberhardt that EPA is working closely with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to identify funding sources to address the initial IOI repair. EPA hosted a meeting in October 2018 to bring relevant parties together. OITA staff joined Doug in providing information on programs and resources under the NADBank, including the Community Assistance Program (CAP) to assist with the city's water infrastructure projects, and through OIR, will provide additional information. City officials are supporting introduction of a House Bill (looking for Sponsor and co-sponsors) – the "Nogales Wastewater Fairness Act," to establish responsibility for the IOI. They are looking for a viable solution to address the City's pending IOI crisis-both environmentally and financially. Mr. Felix and Mr. Kissinger look forward to continuing to work closely with Region VI, and appreciate that OITA and OW will also be valuable resources. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

EPA Meets with Wichita, KS Local Officials

On Tuesday, March 12, OAQPS joined OIR and Region VII in a meeting with Mayor Jeff Longwell and several Councilmembers to discuss the City's "Proactive Approach to Air Quality Vision." The City is interested in any opportunities for a Pilot Designation for the Wichita region to test what they characterize as a proactive, outcomes-based framework to meeting the national standard for ozone. The approach calls for the establishment of a new paradigm for EPA to measure attainment utilizing an outcomes-based approach built on emission reductions from proactive infrastructure and asset upgrades. The City is currently in attainment, but note that they are disproportionately affected by transport ozone. EPA staff applauded the significant investments and innovations the city continues to employ, and noted that these efforts are exactly what the Agency encourages, including the development of a "Decision Support Tool," that could be used in many communities. Region VII will continue to provide guidance to the City, and has encouraged that the City also partner with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to document current efforts into the SIP. Headquarters staff also discussed how some of the approaches might be considered for the SIP and possible SIP credits. EPA congratulated the city on its community engagement as well. While the Clean Air Act does not provide for the types of Pilot Designation being sought by the city, the City appreciates that EPA will continue to partner in and support their efforts.

On another note, Mayor Longwell and his team offered sincere appreciation for a previous meeting facilitated by OIR that provided guidance on applying for WIFIA funding. The mayor and other local officials look forward to continued partnerships with EPA. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

NLC Convenes Congressional City Conference

The National League of Cities convened its Annual Congressional City Conference (CCC) in Washington, DC March 10 – 13. EPA participated in a number of sessions for meaningful engagement as over 2,500 local officials gathered for Policy Committees Meetings, Workshops, and Plenary Sessions. Resolutions and changes

to the National Municipal Policy are not considered during the CCC. Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, (Gary, IN) NLC President and member of EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC), presided over the conference. NLC's First Vice President is Councilmember Joe Buscaino (Los Angeles, CA). Councilmember Kathy Maness (Lexington, KY) serves as Second Vice President. Immediate Past President, Mayor Mark Stodola (Little Rock AR) rounds out the leadership and is also a member of the LGAC.

Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee Meeting/Sunday, March 10. *Lee Forsgren, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water*, provided updates on the EPA's work on PFAS, a top priority for the Committee. *Peter Wright, Special Counsel to the Administrator (OLEM)* addressed the Committee on the America Recycles Day Initiative and discussed how NLC might engage more directly in this effort by either signing onto the Pledge or participating in workgroups. Both presentations resulted in fruitful dialogue. The Committee will deliberate further over the coming months to determine the extent of any PFAS Resolution that may be drafted. The Committee also looks forward to partnering with EPA on the America Recycles Day pledge. The Committee also heard from a number of other presenters on such topics as, "Reducing Emissions From Transportation: Electric Vehicles Consumer Financial Protection Bureau: PACE Rulemaking; and, an update on NLC's Sustainability Program that supports communities.

EENR members discussed the Committee's Federal Advocacy Priorities extensively, noting that the top priority will be a continued focus on Infrastructure – most importantly Water Infrastructure. Additional priorities include: Affordability; Climate Change Impacts on Water Quality and Water Infrastructure; Pollution and Contamination, including lead and nutrients; the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund Reauthorization; WRDA; PFAS; and, Recycling; *Committee leadership: Councilmember Hattie Portis-Jones (Fairburn, GA), Chair; Mayor Pro Tem Gerry Horak (Ft. Collins, CO), Vice Chair; Mayor T J Cawley Morrisville, NC), Vice Chair.*

Workshop – Holistically Managing Water Infrastructure/Monday, March 11. *Sonia Brubaker, Director, Water Infrastructure & Resiliency Finance Center*, joined a panel that included Jackson, MS Mayor Chokwe Lumumba, David Lawry, PE, President, American Public Works Association; Carla A. Reid, General Manager and CEO, WSSC, and Scott Berry, Director of Policy and Government Affairs, US Water Alliance, who served as Moderator. The panel focused on a number of challenges faced by communities, including the significant financial water infrastructure needs that far outpace the financial capability no matter the size of the city or town. Sonia shared guidance and perspective on exploring an array of potential funding opportunities and partnerships to assist communities, and highlighted her offices new tool that provides information on these resources, and is easily accessible to the public. She also joined the panel in discussing creative and innovative approaches that both large and small communities are implementing, even in the face of limited resources, and compliance costs. Asset management, creating new revenue streams besides rates, workforce training and recruitment, and working with EPA's regional offices to renegotiate consent decrees all were presented by the panelists as options for communities to examine as they attempt to meet water infrastructure needs. *Anita Thompkins, Director, Drinking Water Protection Division, OGWDW, and Karen Fligger, Senior Program Manager, WIFIA Program (OW), attended the session and were available for questions relevant to Drinking Water Infrastructure and WIFIA financing. They engaged in dialogue with several local officials following the Workshop.*

Federal Agency Round Robin/Tuesday, March 12* This lively, fun, and informative annual session was open to all Conference Attendees and provided a chance for them to hear directly from federal agencies through facilitated small group discussions with Administration officials and their fellow local elected leaders through a series of 20-minute rotations per their interests. EPA engaged in dialogue at two tables: Stormwater Management/Green Infrastructure, and, Brownfields Redevelopment. *Ann Carroll and Elyse Sutkus, Office of Brownfields & Land Revitalization, staffed the Brownfields Redevelopment table. Jamie Piziali and Greg Schaner, Green Infrastructure Program, Office of Wastewater Management (OW), staffed the Stormwater Management/Green Infrastructure table.* They engaged a number of community leaders and covered an array of guidance, including incorporating innovative Green Infrastructure approaches into a city's "Master Plan," and, taking advantage of the many areas of

Brownfields support, including Assessment, Workforce Development, and exploring how Brownfields may support water infrastructure projects.

Youth Delegate Social Issues Discussion (NEW)/Tuesday, March 12. Added this year, NLC provided the youth delegates with an opportunity to engage with the federal agencies as well. NLC engages about 200 high school-aged, civically-engaged youth at the Congressional City Conference. The panel of federal agency representatives discussed key issues address by the agencies and how the agencies involve youth through education and outreach. In turn, the Youth Delegates discussed and developed priorities on issues they can address locally. They were able to take information and advocacy opportunities back to their cities and youth councils as a result of this session. **Lee Tanner, Supervisor, Office of Public Engagement and Environmental Education (OPEEE), represented EPA.**OIR is managing all follow-up to the NLC CCC. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

EPA Meeting with City of Chino, CA

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Haughey and Public Works Director Amer Jakher met with EPA on Wednesday, March 13 to discuss the City's interest in funding support to expand its Water Treatment Facility as well as its wellhead treatment efforts. The projects will cost between \$15 and \$20m. Approximately one-half of the city's total potable water supply is derived from water produced by City-owned and operated groundwater wells which produce water from the Chino Groundwater Basin. Water quality in the Chino Groundwater Basin, particularly the southwestern portion of the Basin, is impacted by nitrate, perchlorate, and 1, 2, 3 TCP concentrations which exceed the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). Anita Thompkins, Director, Drinking Water Protection Division (OGWDW) and Nick Chamberlain, Team Leader, DWSRF (OGWDW) discussed the Drinking Water SRF and WIFIA as potential sources of funding support. The city has successfully used the Clean Water SRF and is preparing to submit a DWSRF application to the State. Region IX's Roger Gorke, Senior Policy Advisor, also joined the discussion and provided additional guidance. The local officials look forward to working with Region IX as needed. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

EPA Meeting with Sunnyvale, CA Local Officials

Region IX, the Office of Air and Radiation, and the Office of Water joined OIR in a Wednesday, March 13 meeting with Vice Mayor Russ Melton and Councilmember Nancy Smith (member of NLC's EENR) to discuss several topics of concern: (1) Carbon Emissions Standards for New Coal-Fired Power Plant; (2) Federal CAFÉ Standards; and, (3) the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The local officials expressed opposition to what they characterized as a roll-back of the carbon emission standards, noted that the city is more comfortable with higher standards, and expressed concerns that EPA's proposed action on new source standards undermines the Sunnyvale's efforts to deliver clean energy. The city is a member of the Community Aggregation Group, and the Silicon Valley Clean Energy Renewable and Green Prime group. Sunnyvale has invested substantially in a wind and solar plant. They appreciate that we will provide the link so that they are able to submit written comments. Councilmember Smith also expressed the city's support for the CAFÉ Standards, and opposition to the Safe Vehicles Rule. They have met with DOT to discuss their concerns. She noted the City's fuel efficiency initiatives, including efforts to incorporate such things as charging for electric vehicles in all new housing and buildings. The city is sponsoring a \$6 million Program to promote Fuel Switching, EV Charging stations, and other innovations. Ben Machol, P.E. Manger, Technology & Partnerships Office, Region IX, expressed appreciation for all that Councilmember shared on the innovations associated with the Community Choice Aggregation.

Vice Mayor Melton emphasized the city's strong support for the Clean Water SRF and the WIFIA program. The city has an application in for CWSRF support to rebuild its Water Pollution Control Plant. They plan also to explore the potential to apply for WIFIA funding to support this project. They welcomed the information from the FY 2020 President's Budget provided by Mark Mylin, Office of Wastewater Management that touched on what has been requested for both the CWSRF and WIFIA. Vice Mayor Melton was also excited to hear that a

NOFA for WIFIA is expected as soon as this Spring. They look forward to additional information. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

WOTUS Briefing and Discussion at NACo Headquarters

On Friday, March 1, Office of Water management (Forsgren, Eisenberg) and Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds staff (Christensen) met with county representatives from across the nation at the National Association of Counties (NACo) Headquarters, 660 North Capitol, NW, Washington, DC. NACo and its members have been extremely interested in the development of the recently proposed revisions to the definition of Waters of the United States, and were eager to present their concerns “firsthand” to EPA leadership while they are in town for their Annual Legislative Conference at the Washington Hilton. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers management (S. Jensen) was present at the session as well, which covered the full range of issues that have been raised by county representatives during the course of the current proposal’s development, as well as during the brief implementation phase of the 2015 rule which preceded it. The discussion was chaired by Hon. Christian Leinbach (Berks County, PA), who hailed the meeting as perhaps the most productive ever between EPA and counties on this topic. ***Note: Forsgren also provided county reps a “heads-up” on the forthcoming Lead and Copper NPDWR proposal, and asked that counties begin preparing to advise EPA on both the location and extent of lead service lines in their respective jurisdictions/service areas. *(Contact: Andrew Hanson)*

EPA DAA Discussion with NACo Committee

On Saturday, March 2, EPA Office of Water Deputy Assistant Administrator Lee Forsgren addressed the National Association of Counties’ Environment, Energy and Land Use Committee (EELU) as part of NACo’s Annual Legislative Conference, being held March 2 – 6, 2019, at the Washington Hilton. Forsgren discussed both long-term and recently-initiated water-related activities of national interest, including the recent proposal to revise the definition of Waters of the United States, the agency’s multi-faceted PFAS Action Plan, and other program priorities. Co-panelists for the session included the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and energy and environment association representatives (Assoc. of State Floodplain Managers, Nat’l Assoc of Flood and Stormwater Mgt Agencies, Solid Waste Assoc of North America, Clean Energy and Technology Center, National Council for Science and Environment, and the Natural Resources Defense Council - Anna Weber). Resolutions put forth for consideration/debate by the EELU committee and potential ratification by the full membership included:

- 1 – Proposed Resolution to Improve Cost-Benefit Analysis for Federal Flood Control Projects** (Hon. Zach Friend, Santa Cruz County, CA)
- 2 – Proposed Resolution on Compensatory Mitigation In-Lieu Fee Programs** (Hon. Gary Moore, Boone County, KY)
- 3 – Proposed Resolution on Supporting Non-Competitive Rural Water Projects** (Hon. Jesse Thompson, Navajo County, AZ)
- 4 – Proposed Resolution Supporting the Development of New U.S. Natural Resource Export Facilities** (Hon. Richard Dunbar, Phillips County, MT)

Several counties have been bringing delegations to EPA headquarters to meet with program staff during the weeks prior to and following the conference. *(Contact: Andrew Hanson)*

Meeting with Santa Cruz County, Arizona, Representatives

On Monday, March 4, representatives from Santa Cruz County, Arizona, met with staff from EPA OCIR, Office of Wastewater Management, the Office of International and Tribal Affairs, and EPA Region 9 to discuss the county’s challenges stemming from the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI), a facility which straddles the

U.S. border between the sister cities of Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora (Mexico), and the Nogales Wash, a 94 square mile watershed which contains the IOI. The region has a long history of transboundary wastewater problems, with raw sewage flowing north into the U.S. and exposing residents of both cities to public health hazards. The Nogales Wash Channel, a 1930s-era concrete conveyance, was recently assessed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as having components that are compromised as well as being in dire need of expansion, and the IOI -- which was placed into operation in 1972 -- has eroded and has developed numerous cracks. Although most of the Mexican sewage is now collected and treated, the combination of aging pipelines and extreme topographic and climatic conditions (e.g. summer monsoon) continues to put Nogales, AZ, at risk. Two major breaches of the IOI in the past 18 months have meant that millions of gallons of raw sewage have entered the watershed in Santa Cruz County. To address the binational problems, EPA, the City of Nogales, and Mexican Federal, state and local agencies have funded a series of projects to plan, design and construct drinking water and wastewater infrastructure for the area. While neither the county nor the City of Nogales owns the IOI, the county is seeking federal funds to help them meet a 22 percent match (\$5 million) for a \$21 million slip line that would reinforce the concrete tunnel for up to 30 years, protecting both residents' health and a \$3 billion/year produce industry. Though OW WIFIA staff felt that the complex project would not be a good candidate for that program, partially due to the small amount needed plus the county's strong preference for grants over loans, OW SRF staff felt that if certain conditions were met working through the State of Arizona, there could ultimately be partial loan forgiveness through that program. The officials from Santa Cruz County, visiting DC to participate in the National Association of Counties' 2019 Legislative Conference, will continue to work with EPA Regional staff in order to explore potential funding avenues to support this and other projects. *(Contact: Andrew Hanson)*

Meeting with San Bernardino County Supervisor

On Tuesday, March 5, 2019, OCIR and OAR co-hosted a meeting with San Bernardino County (CA) Supervisor Janice Rutherford to discuss EPA's Cleaner Trucks Initiative (CTI) and its attendant proposal for a new lower Nox emission standard for heavy duty trucks. The County believes that the forthcoming rulemaking constitutes a critical step toward meeting the more stringent 70 parts per billion ozone standard announced by EPA in 2015, and the supervisor wants to discuss balancing and improving their local economy -- which includes San Bernardino County's goods movement sector, with regulatory and permitting reforms. Supervisor Rutherford is also a member of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Board, and -- in that capacity -- conveyed that groups concerns regarding EPA's recently-issued notice of reconsideration of the 2017 Final Determination of the Mid-term Evaluation of greenhouse gas emission standards for model year 2022-2025 light duty vehicles. (CAFÉ standards) The Board has worked aggressively on regulating big industry/stationary sources, so the only path to meaningful improvements for the area will be in the realm of mobile sources, and any weakening of CAFÉ standards will adversely impact pollution control efforts. The county is also interested in pursuing other potential areas of cooperation and collaboration, including incentives to turn over the fleet more quickly, as well as legislative and/or regulatory actions that could potentially improve the business climate and the region's competitiveness while ensuring environmental and public health protection. The supervisor would also be interested in any updates from OAR's State and Local Climate program on potential partnerships to support the efforts of local communities. *(Contacts: Andrew Hanson and M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

Meeting with Marion County (OR) Officials

On Tuesday March 5, 2019, OCIR and OLEM co-hosted a meeting with newly-elected Marion County, OR, Commissioner Colm Willis to provide an overview of the Brownfields program. Marion County submitted an (ultimately) unsuccessful Community-Wide Assessment grant application in the FY 2018 round, and did not re-submit for the most recent brownfield competition. However, the county -- having been advised by Region 10 brownfields staff that their 2018 application was "very high quality" and among the top proposals **not** to

receive a grant – has expressed renewed interest in pursuing Brownfields funding for the 2020 cycle , and was advised to continue to work closely with Region 10 staff and to use the forthcoming 2019 program guidance during as it develops its proposal. *(Contacts: Andrew Hanson and M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

Meeting with San Diego (CA) Supervisor Greg Cox

On Wednesday, March 6, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler met with San Diego County Supervisor and outgoing NACo President Greg Cox (R-CA) to discuss possible paths forward to address long-term environmental and public health problems posed by decades of cross-boundary sewage, sediment and trash that flow into San Diego County's coastal waterways. The problem stems from inadequate infrastructure and an exploding population in Tijuana, Mexico, which threaten the health of U.S citizens, harm important estuarine land and force closure of beaches. Further, these spills also hinder U.S. Navy training and compromise U.S. Customs and Border Protection operations. *(Contacts: Britt Carter and Andrew Hanson)*